

VERTIGO

LES 71

WILLINGHAM
BUCKINGHAM
LEIALOHA



May 08

suggested for
mature readers
vertigo.comics.com



OKAY, I REMEMBER ENOUGH SPANISH TO KNOW THAT TIERRA DEL FUEGO TRANSLATES AS "LAND OF FIRE." SO THEN WHY IS IT SO COLD HERE?



GOOD MORNING, MISS.



USHUAIA, THE WORLD'S SOUTHERNMOST CITY, ACCORDING TO SOME.



YOU'RE QUITE PUNCTUAL, DEAR LADY, AND TO BE COMMENDED FOR THAT.



WHAT'S THIS, MR. ORUNDELICO? OUR AGREEMENT WAS THAT WE'D BOTH COME ALONE. AS YOU CAN SEE, I KEPT MY PART OF THE DEAL.



SKULDUGGERY

Part One of Two

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THROUGH MUCH OF ITS HISTORY ARGENTINA USED IT AS A PRISON FOR SERIOUS CRIMINALS, THE SAME WAY THE BRITS USED AUSTRALIA AND THE FRENCH USED DEVIL'S ISLAND.

BASICALLY IT WAS A FORCED COLONY FOR ANYONE TOO BAD TO BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN AMONG CIVILIZED PEOPLE.

I GUESS THAT'S NOT THE CASE ANYMORE, BUT IT'S STILL FULL OF SOME VERY TOUGH CUSTOMERS.



HE'S LYING. WE'RE TRAVELING SOUTH AND A BIT WEST, BUT THE PACKAGE IS DUE NORTH FROM HERE.

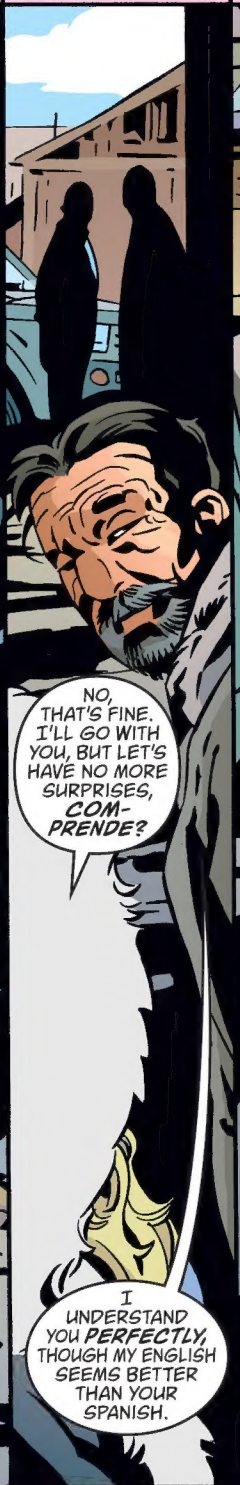
FRAU TOTENKINDER DIDN'T SEND ME ON THIS FOOL'S ERRAND ENTIRELY WITHOUT HELP.



ONE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, MISS. THESE ARE DANGEROUS TIMES, NO?



HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT TO FORGET THE TRANSACTION, THEN WE CAN SIMPLY GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS AND--



NO, THAT'S FINE. I'LL GO WITH YOU, BUT LET'S HAVE NO MORE SURPRISES, COMPRENDE?

I UNDERSTAND YOU PERFECTLY, THOUGH MY ENGLISH SEEMS BETTER THAN YOUR SPANISH.



THE PACKAGE AWAITS YOUR INSPECTION. SHALL WE GO THEN, MISS-- WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?

I DIDN'T.

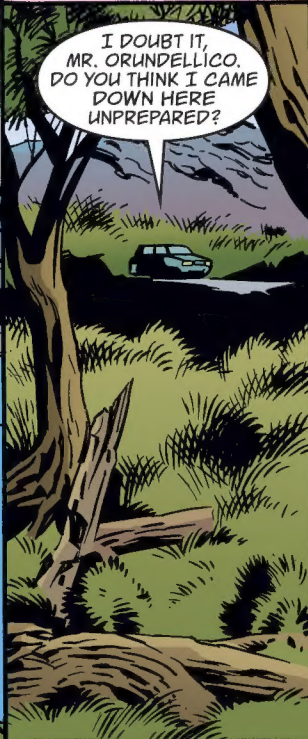


AND WE'LL JUST KEEP IT THAT WAY, IF YOU DON'T MIND.



WHERE ARE WE GOING, MR. ORUNDELICO?

I'M BRINGING YOU TO THE PACKAGE, MISS. WE KEPT IT OUT OF TOWN, FOR DISCRETION'S SAKE.



I DOUBT IT, MR. ORUNDELICO. DO YOU THINK I CAME DOWN HERE UNPREPARED?

NOW I'M LYING. TOTENKINDER'S HELP WAS MAGICAL, NOT TECHNOLOGICAL. BUT THIS IS A MISSION AMONG THE MUNDYS, SO WE FAKED UP A VISUALLY CONVINCING ELECTRONIC DEVICE.

MUNDYS BELIEVE ANYTHING IF YOU SHOW THEM AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE.

THE OLD WITCH ENCHANTED ME WITH A MAGICAL BUMP-OF-DIRECTION THAT WOULD ALWAYS LET ME KNOW WHAT DIRECTION THE PACKAGE IS IN.



SO WHERE ARE YOU ACTUALLY TAKING ME?

RELAX, MISS. ENJOY THE RIDE. ALL WILL BE REVEALED IN TIME.



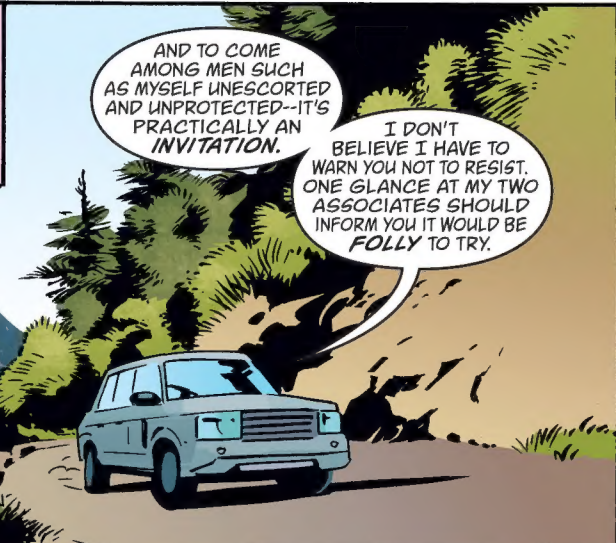
SO IT'S TO BE A KIDNAPPING, IS IT?

OF COURSE. YOU ARE VERY LOVELY, MISS. I HAVE CLIENTS WHO'LL PAY HANDSOMELY FOR A WOMAN OF YOUR QUALITIES.





OKAY, THIS MIGHT BE A BIT OF A PICKLE.



AND TO COME AMONG MEN SUCH AS MYSELF UNESCORTED AND UNPROTECTED--IT'S PRACTICALLY AN INVITATION.

I DON'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WARN YOU NOT TO RESIST. ONE GLANCE AT MY TWO ASSOCIATES SHOULD INFORM YOU IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO TRY.



TRUE ENOUGH. IT WOULD BE STUPID FOR A TINY GIRL TO ATTACK THESE TWO BRUTES. THEY'RE BUILT OF EQUAL PARTS STONE, LEATHER AND SCAR TISSUE.



WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



BUT JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, EVEN THE TOUGHEST THUG'S EYES ARE STILL MADE OF JELLY. BLINDING ONE OF THEM CUTS HIS POTENTIAL LETHALITY AT LEAST IN HALF.

THUG NUMBER TWO DOES THE EXPECTED AND TRIES TO PULL HIS GUN. SILLY COWBOY. A GUN IN SUCH CLOSE QUARTERS BELONGS TO ANYONE WHO WANTS IT *BAD* ENOUGH.



AAIIIEEE!



STOP! STOP THIS NOW!

YOU'LL KILL US ALL!

AND BELIEVE ME,
I WANT IT MORE
THAN HE DOES.

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

OUT OF RESPECT, I PUT
THREE CAPS IN EACH THUG.
EVEN WITH ONE BLINDED AND
ONE UNARMED, THEY COULD
STILL HAVE BEEN
PLENTY DANGEROUS.

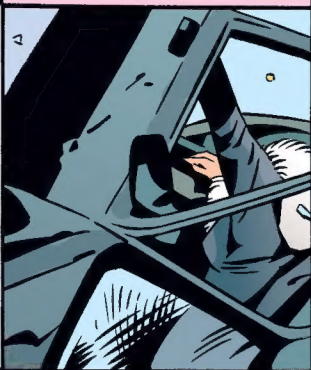
BEST TO
MAKE SURE
OF SUCH
THINGS.

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

I FEEL LIKE ONE GIANT
BRUISE. ORUNDELICO IS
WORSE. UNCONSCIOUS AT
LEAST. I HOPE HE'S NOT
MUCH WORSE THAN THAT,
BECAUSE I NEED HIM
ALIVE.

BUT HE'LL DO ME A
FAVOR IF HE STAYS
OUT LONG ENOUGH
NOT TO SEE ME LEVER
THE RANGE ROVER
BACK ON ITS WHEELS.

NOT A GOOD
IDEA TO SHOW
A MUNDY HOW
STRONG A
POPULAR FABLE
GIRL CAN BE.





AT THE SAME TIME
IN NEW YORK CITY...

IT'S A
BIT TIGHT IN
THE SHOULDERS
AND A BIT LOOSE
IN THE WAIST-
LINE.

FABLE-
TOWN.

AND
CAN YOU
ALSO TAKE
IT IN A BIT
HERE AND
HERE?



OF
COURSE,
SIR.

WILL THERE BE
ENOUGH ROOM FOR
ALL OF MY MEDALS?
I WAS **QUITE** THE
CAMPAIGNER BACK
IN THE DAY.



OF
COURSE,
SIR.

NOW HELP
ME INTO MY CIVILIAN
SUIT JACKET. WE'RE LATE
FOR THE BIG MEETING
UPSTAIRS.

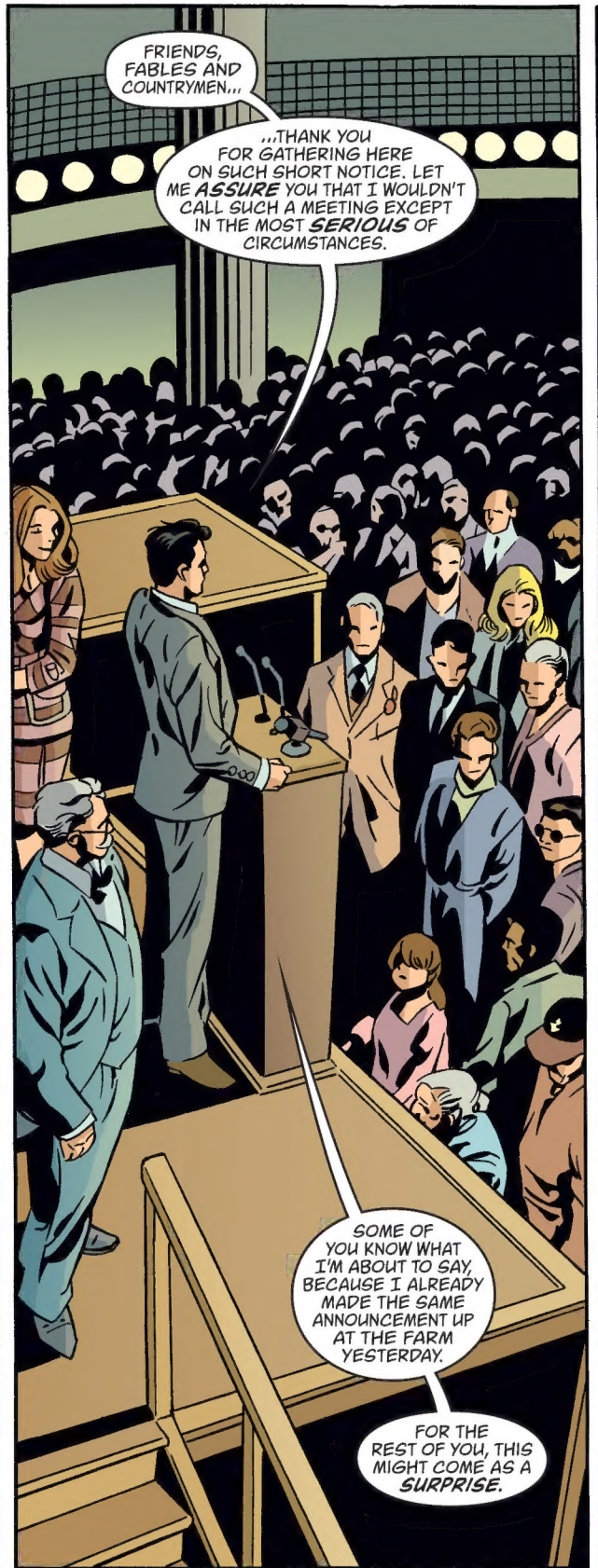
THEY'LL
WAIT. THEY CAN'T
START *WITHOUT* US,
AFTER ALL.

ISN'T THAT
THE SAME ATTITUDE
THAT GOT YOU BOOTED
OUT OF OFFICE THE
FIRST TIME?



WITH ALL
DUE RESPECT,
SIR.

MAYBE WE
SHOULD QUICKLY
ADJOURN UP TO THE
GRAND BALLROOM,
AFTER ALL.



FRIENDS,
FABLES AND
COUNTRYMEN...

...THANK YOU
FOR GATHERING HERE
ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. LET
ME **ASSURE** YOU THAT I WOULDN'T
CALL SUCH A MEETING EXCEPT
IN THE MOST **SERIOUS** OF
CIRCUMSTANCES.

SOME OF
YOU KNOW WHAT
I'M ABOUT TO SAY,
BECAUSE I ALREADY
MADE THE SAME
ANNOUNCEMENT UP
AT THE FARM
YESTERDAY.

FOR THE
REST OF YOU, THIS
MIGHT COME AS A
SURPRISE.



I'M TIRED.

I'M TIRED OF PAPERWORK AND **MORE** PAPERWORK, FOLLOWED BY **STILL MORE PAPERWORK**. I'M WEARY UNTO **DEATH** OF BUREAUCRACY IN ALL ITS FORMS.



WHEN I DECIDED TO SEEK OFFICE AS YOUR MAYOR, **CLEARLY** I BIT OFF MORE THAN I COULD CHEW.

SO, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, I RESIGN. SINCE KING COLE IS NOW THE DEPUTY MAYOR, HE WILL STEP IN TO COMPLETE MY TERM OF OFFICE.



MR. MAYOR?

THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR.

AS MY **FIRST** ORDER OF BUSINESS, I HEREBY APPOINT BEAUTY BACK INTO HER RECENTLY VACATED POSITION AS DEPUTY MAYOR.



AND NOW I'M **PLEASED** TO APPOINT PRINCE CHARMING AS OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND RECOVERY.

IN SHORT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HE'S **IN CHARGE** OF RUNNING THE WAR.

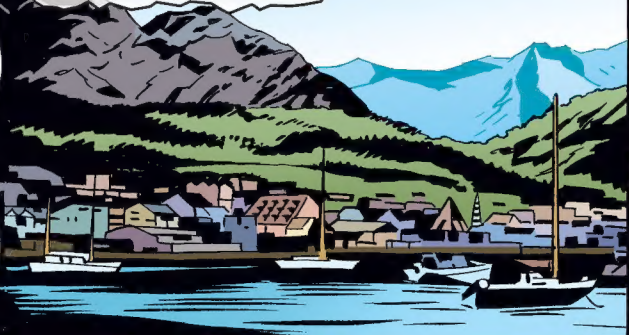


AND FINALLY TODAY, I'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE...

IS IS JUST ME, OR DOES ALL OF THIS SOUND LIKE **REHEARSED** MATERIAL?

THERE DOES SEEM TO BE AN ODD LACK OF SPONTANEITY.

BACK IN THE FOOTHILLS ABOVE THE CITY OF USHUAIA...



MY MAGICAL DIRECTION FINDER TELLS ME THE PACKAGE HASN'T MOVED IN ALL THE TIME I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE, WAITING FOR ORUNDELICO TO WAKE UP.

THIS COULD BE A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING.

FINALLY, A FLICKER OF LIFE FROM THE LAST OF MY WOULD-BE-KIDNAPPERS.

I HOPE YOU GOT PLENTY OF REST, MR. ORUNDELICO, BECAUSE YOU HAVE A LONG DAY'S WORK AHEAD OF YOU.



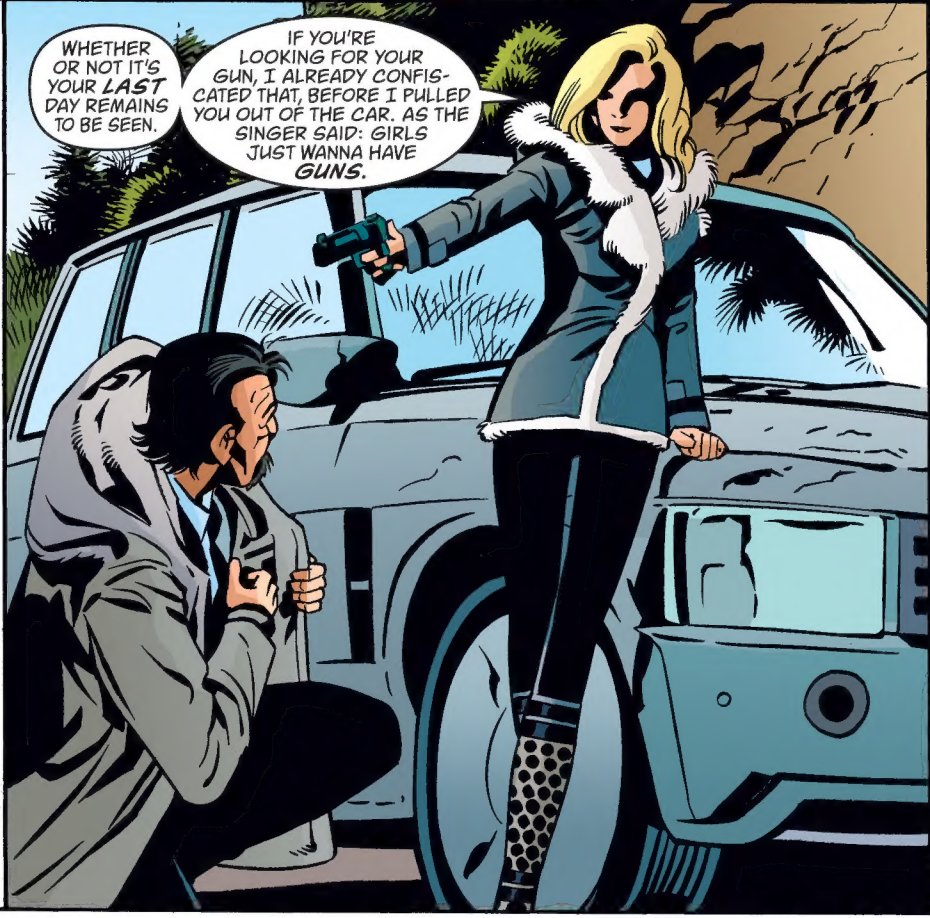
UNNGH?

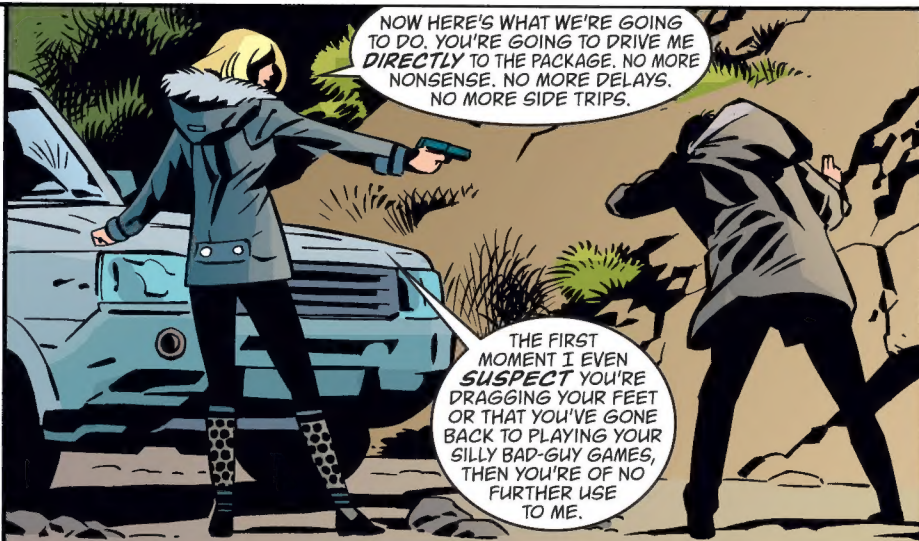


QUE?

WHETHER OR NOT IT'S YOUR LAST DAY REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR GUN, I ALREADY CONFISCATED THAT, BEFORE I PULLED YOU OUT OF THE CAR. AS THE SINGER SAID: GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE GUNS.





NOW HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO. YOU'RE GOING TO DRIVE ME DIRECTLY TO THE PACKAGE. NO MORE NONSENSE. NO MORE DELAYS. NO MORE SIDE TRIPS.

THE FIRST MOMENT I EVEN SUSPECT YOU'RE DRAGGING YOUR FEET OR THAT YOU'VE GONE BACK TO PLAYING YOUR SILLY BAD-GUY GAMES, THEN YOU'RE OF NO FURTHER USE TO ME.



THAT'S THE EXACT MOMENT I PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD-- NO FURTHER WARNINGS, NO "PRETTY PLEASE DO WHAT I SAY, BECAUSE THIS TIME I REALLY MEAN IT."

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO RELY ON MY FANCY LITTLE SPY DEVICES TO GET ME THERE ON MY OWN.



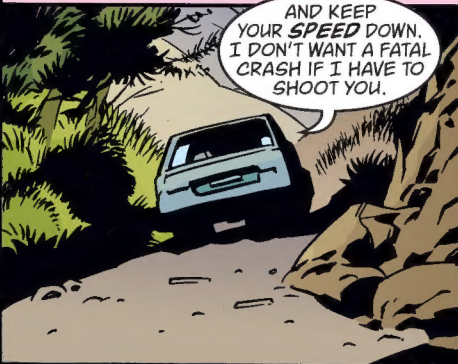
SO, READY TO GO?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY MEN?

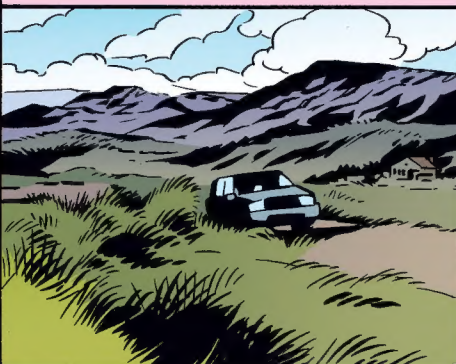
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE I COOKED AND ATE THEM. WHAT DO YOU CARE? THEY'RE DEAD.

ACTUALLY I DRAGGED THEM INTO THE WOODS, WHERE THEY WOULDN'T BE FOUND FOR A WHILE. WHAT DID HE EXPECT ME TO DO WITH THE BODIES?

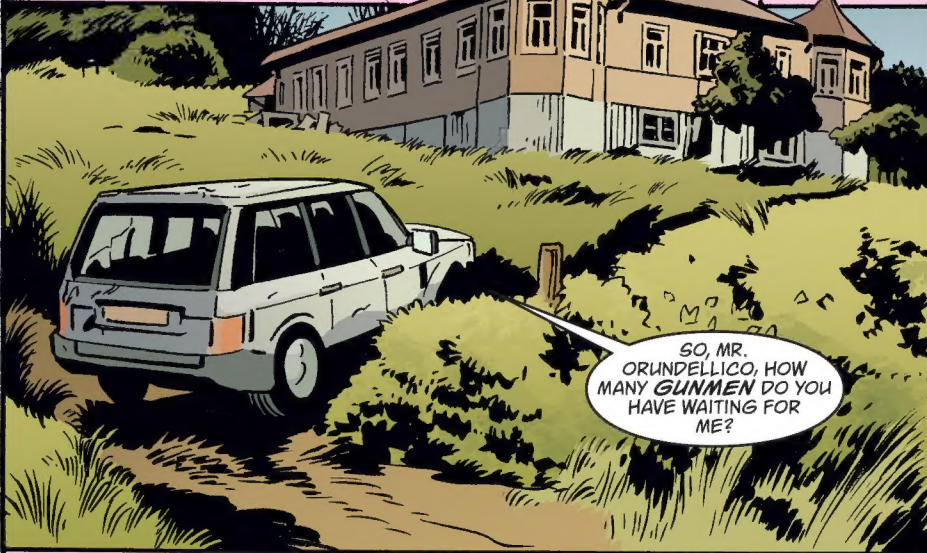
THIS TIME ORUNDELLICO'S HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THAT'S SOME PROGRESS AT LEAST.



AND KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN. I DON'T WANT A FATAL CRASH IF I HAVE TO SHOOT YOU.



A LONG HOUR LATER WE PULL UP IN FRONT OF A REMOTE BUILDING, FAR REMOVED FROM ANY NEIGHBORS. FIELDS ARE OVERGROWN AND THE PLACE LOOKS LONG DESERTED.



SO, MR. ORUNDELLICO, HOW MANY *GUNMEN* DO YOU HAVE WAITING FOR ME?

MY DIRECTIONAL-BUMP INDICATES THE PACKAGE IS INDEED INSIDE.

ABOVE ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, EVEN MY OWN SAFETY, I NEED TO MAKE SURE THE PACKAGE ISN'T HARMED DURING THIS MOST DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT. TRYING TO SHOOT MY WAY IN IS THE SUREST WAY TO BLOW IT.



ONLY ONE AND HE'S UNARMED.

SERIOUSLY? THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY IT?

OKAY, FINE. WHEN I KILL YOU FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW, REMEMBER IT'S BECAUSE YOU JUST LIED TO ME.



LEAD THE WAY.

THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT THE PACKAGE IS TO STUPIDLY WALK IN AND LET THEM TAKE ME.

SO THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I DO.



YOU CAN DROP YOUR WEAPON NOW, MISS. MY MAN ARMANDO IS DIRECTLY *BEHIND* YOU AND HAS YOU COVERED.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU HE WILL SHOOT IF YOU SO MUCH AS *TWITCH* THE WRONG WAY.



CAREFUL. SHE HAS ANOTHER WEAPON--THE ONE SHE *TOOK* FROM ME.

YOU WILL PLEASE HAND OVER THAT ONE TOO, MISS. MOVE *VERY SLOWLY*. I WILL NOT HESITATE TO KILL YOU.

I BELIEVE YOU, ARMANDO. HERE'S MR. ORUNDELICO'S GUN.

TRUTH IS, I WAS SORT OF HOPING HE'D *FORGOTTEN* ABOUT THIS ONE.



AT LEAST NOW I
CAN SEE FOR MYSELF
THAT THE PACKAGE
IS SAFE.

HELLO,
PINOCCHIO. I'M
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE
ALIVE AND IN ONE
PIECE.

HI, CINDY.
BOY, DO I FEEL
LIKE A BIG **DOPE**,
HIRING THESE CROOKS
TO GUARD ME FROM THE
HOMELANDS TROOPS
WHILE WAITING FOR
SOMEONE FROM
FABLETOWN TO
COME FETCH
ME.

AND I PAID
THEM IN **GOLD**, TOO.
I PROMISED THEM SOME
OF IT, BUT THEY HELPED
THEMSELVES TO **ALL**
OF IT.



HERE'S A MESSAGE FOR ALL WOULD-BE CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS; LEARN TO COUNT TO THREE.

YES, I HAD THE GUN I TOOK FROM ORUNDELLICO, AND THE ONE I TOOK EARLIER FROM THUG #2, BOTH OF WHICH WERE DULY CONFISCATED FROM ME.

DON'T WORRY, KID. THE FACT THAT YOU'RE *OKAY* IS THE ONLY IMPORTANT PART. WE CAN ALWAYS GET YOUR GOLD BACK AFTER I *KILL* THESE AMATEURS.

EXCUSE ME? YOU INTEND TO KILL WHO?

YOUR *BRAVADO* IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY IS ADMIRABLE, BUT--

BUT THUG #1--THE ONE I BLINDED--WAS *ALSO* ARMED.

DID ORUNDELLICO SERIOUSLY THINK I'D FORGET TO TAKE THAT WEAPON, TOO?

SHOOT HER! SHOOT HER!

BLAM!

IT'S ONLY IN THE MOVIES WHERE THE HERO FORGOES TAKING THE GUNS OFF THE DOZENS OF THUGS HE KILLS RIGHT AND LEFT.

IN THE REAL SPY BUSINESS WE ALWAYS TAKE ALL THE GUNS. EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TO THROW THEM AWAY SO THE BAD GUYS CAN'T USE THEM. BASIC DOCTRINE.



I DIDN'T COME ARMED TO THE ORIGINAL MEETING BECAUSE I ASSUMED THEY'D SEARCH ME. THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET THAT MUCH RIGHT.

STILL, I'VE NEVER HAD TROUBLE HELPING MYSELF TO WEAPONS IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE WERE LOTS OF THEM AROUND. THE BAD GUYS USUALLY BRING ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.





CHRIST ON A CRAP SOFA, CINDY! YOU KILLED THEM ALL!

NOT THAT BIG A DEAL. THEY WEREN'T WELL TRAINED.



BUT THIS GUY WAS TRYING TO SURRENDER!

NO HE WASN'T. HE WAS STALLING FOR TIME. ANYONE ACTUALLY TRYING TO SURRENDER DROPS HIS WEAPON FIRST. IT'S KIND OF A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED PRE-REQUISITE.

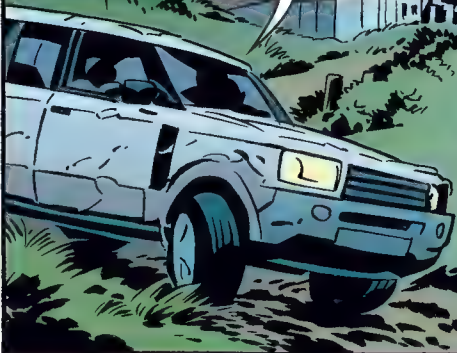


BESIDES, WE CAN'T TAKE PRISONERS. WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO MOVE FAST. HE WOULD HAVE SLOWED US DOWN WHILE PROVIDING ZERO OFFSETTING ADVANTAGES.

I GATHERED WEAPONS AND AMMO, WHILE PINOCCHIO RECOVERED HIS GOLD. IN FIVE MINUTES WE WERE ON THE MOVE.

SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TO GET ME BACK TO FABLE-TOWN?

GOOD QUESTION. UP UNTIL THIS MORNING, ONCE I'D FOUND YOU, I WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL BOY BLUE TO COME GET US WITH HIS MAGIC CLOAK.



BUT THAT PLAN ENDED WHEN MY DEDICATED CELL PHONE GOT BUSTED UP IN A CRASH EARLIER TODAY.

TAKE NOTE, IN CASE YOU EVER ENTER THE SPY TRADE: FANCY TECHNO GADGETS ALWAYS LET YOU DOWN.



I SHOULD'VE INSISTED TOTENKINDER GIVE ME A MAGICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE PINOCCHIO DIRECTION FINDER.

BUT INSISTING ON ANYTHING FROM THAT WITCH IS ALWAYS AN IFFY PROPOSITION. EVERYTHING FROM HER COMES WITH MULTIPLE STRINGS ATTACHED.

OH, WELL. SPILT MILK.

NO PROBLEM, RIGHT? WE JUST CALL THE BUSINESS OFFICE AND TELL THEM TO SEND BLUE.



THAT'S NOT AN OPTION. NO COMMUNICATIONS OVER AN UNSECURED LINE. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUR OWN WAY NOW.



WE STAY AWAY FROM CITIES AND HOTELS, AVOIDING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT REQUIRE ID'S.

SO HOW DID YOU BECOME SUCH A TAX-TRAINED KILLER SUPER-SPY, CINDY?

THE SHORT ANSWER IS BIGBY. THE LONG ANSWER IS SOMETHING I MAY BE FREE TO TELL YOU SOMEDAY, BUT PROBABLY NOT.



WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LIVE OUT OF THE CAR FOR NOW.

I ONLY ALLOW A FIRE WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, BUT IT'S PRETTY COLD AT NIGHT.

IN A DAY OR TWO WE'LL BE IN A PLACE WHERE I HAVE UNDERGROUND CONNECTIONS.

SO FILL ME IN ON OUR OPPOSITION. WHO FOLLOWED YOU OUT OF THE HOMELANDS?

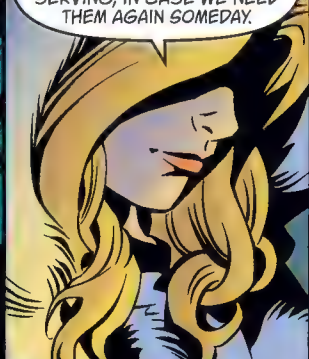
OKAY, WELL, I GUESS I'D BETTER START WITH HOW I ESCAPED.

NO YOU DON'T.



I DON'T ABSOLUTELY NEED TO KNOW THAT, AND WHAT I DON'T KNOW I CAN'T REVEAL LATER UNDER HARSH QUESTIONING.

YOUR CLANDESTINE CONNECTIONS IN THE HOMELANDS MIGHT BE WORTH PRESERVING, IN CASE WE NEED THEM AGAIN SOMEDAY.



YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU EXPECT TO BE CAPTURED.

NO, BUT I TRY TO PLAN FOR WHAT CAN HAPPEN, NOT JUST WHAT'S MOST LIKELY TO HAPPEN.



NOW, TELL ME WHO WE MIGHT BE FACING.

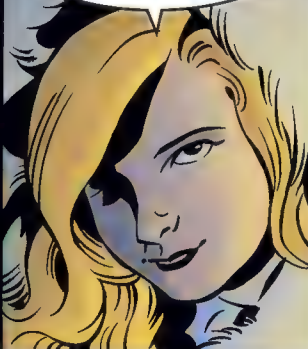
THERE WAS A WHOLE ARMY OF FOLKS AFTER ME. POP REALLY WANTED ME TO COME HOME. I KNOW FOR A FACT SOME OF THEM SLIPPED THROUGH THE GATEWAY AHEAD OF ME.



THEY EVENTUALLY HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHERE I WAS HEADING. I EXPECTED THEM TO JUMP ME THE MOMENT I CAME THROUGH ON THIS SIDE.

I DOUBT THEY'D DO THAT. HANGING AROUND THE GATE WOULD RISK CALLING MUNDY ATTENTION TO IT.

AS IMPORTANT AS YOU ARE TO THEM, KEEPING THE GATE SECRET HAS TO BE THE HIGHER PRIORITY.



THROUGH A SERIES OF STOLEN CARS AND BOATS, SWITCHING VEHICLES OFTEN, WE MADE IT ACROSS THE BORDER, OUT OF ARGENTINA INTO CHILE AND THE CITY OF PUNTA ARENAS.

FROM THERE WE WERE ABLE TO BUY OUR WAY ONTO A GIPSY CARGO FLIGHT TO SANTIAGO, A LOVELY TOWN FULL OF HIGHLY CAPITALISTIC VILLAINS AND SCOUNDRELS.

HALF NOW, RAUL.
HALF ON ARRIVAL AT OUR
DESTINATION.

AGREED.

TWO PASSENGERS.
NO QUESTIONS. AND RAUL,
DARLING, TO MAKE SURE WE'RE
BOTH ON THE SAME PAGE, I'M
BUYING THE *ENTIRE*
FLIGHT.

NO ADDITIONAL
PASSENGERS OR SECRET
CARGO OR SIDELINE SCHEMES
TO TRY TO INCREASE YOUR
PROFIT.

THAT'S WHERE I HAD THE
CONNECTIONS TO ARRANGE
A VERY OFF-THE-BOOKS
CHARTER FLIGHT FOR THE
REST OF THE WAY HOME.

NOW IT'S JUST A MATTER
OF MAINTAINING A LOW-PROFILE
UNTIL MORNING.

TOMORROW
MORNING, AT THE
AERODROME, IN
EL MIRADOR
DISTRICT.

I'LL FIND
IT. HASTA MAÑANA,
MI HERMANO MAS
QUERIDO.

Y UN
PAQUETE
PEQUEÑO DE
ARROZ, POR
FAVOR.





NO DINING OUT.
NO GOING OUT
AT ALL AFTER
THIS ERRAND.



WE'LL STAY
ONE NIGHT IN
THE SAFE
HOUSE I
SECURE AND
THEN BE ON
OUR WAY.



I'M HOME
WITH *DINNER*,
PINOCCHI--

OH!



AND JUST
IN TIME, TOO. MY
ASSOCIATES AND I
WERE GROWING
HUNGRY.

DO COME
IN, DEAR CINDERELLA,
AND LET ME ADVISE YOU.
PERFORM ONE UNEXPECTED
MOVEMENT AND MY MAN
KERR WILL *SLIT* THE
BOY'S THROAT.

FAIL TO DO
EXACTLY WHAT I SAY,
IN *EXACTLY* THE WAY
I SAY IT AND KERR WILL
ACT, WITHOUT FURTHER
ORDERS FROM
ME.

AND YOU'LL FIND KERR'S AN EXPERT WITH THE BLADE. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE THE CHILD.

EXCEPT THAT I KNOW YOU NEED PINOCCHIO ALIVE MORE THAN I DO. YOU'RE BLUFFING, MR. HANSEL.

DON'T COUNT ON THAT. THOUGH GEPPETTO MAY LOVE THIS TRAITOROUS CREATURE, I SURELY DON'T, AND THE EMPIRE WOULD ONLY PROFIT BY HIS DEMISE.

I'D LOVE NOTHING SO MUCH AS TO HAVE TO REPORT BACK THAT, SADLY, THOUGH I DID ALL I COULD TO SAVE HIM, THE POOR LAD PERISHED. IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE.



THEN WHY'S HE STILL ALIVE?

TO HAVE A HOLD OVER YOU, DEAR LADY.

VERY SLOWLY, VERY CAREFULLY, YOU MAY SET YOUR PACKAGE DOWN. THEN, KEEPING YOUR HANDS IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES, YOU MAY SIT DOWN IN THAT CHAIR.

WE KNOW FABLETOWN IS AWARE OF THE EMPIRE'S WAR INTENTIONS AND IS GIRDING ITSELF FOR A PREVENTIVE FIRST STRIKE INTO THE HOMELANDS.

YOU'RE THE PRIZE I REALLY WANTED, AND BEHOLD, I'VE CAUGHT YOU. LET'S HAVE A CHAT, YOU AND ME.

WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO LEARN FROM ME?

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS WHEN YOU INTEND TO STRIKE AND FROM WHERE.





SERIOUSLY?
THAT'S
BRILLIANT! LOVELY!
YOU JUST MADE MY
DAY.



THAT'S **REALLY** WHAT
YOU WANT TO KNOW? NO
BULLSHIT?



I DON'T
SEE WHAT'S SO
FUNNY.



IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO
RELIEVED. I WAS SCARED
I'D HAVE TO HOLD OUT UNDER
PROLONGED TORTURE TO
KEEP VITAL SECRETS
SAFE.

MR. HANSEL,
I'D BE **MORE** THAN
HAPPY TO TELL YOU WHEN
THE WAR STARTS. MIND
IF I LOOK AT MY
WATCH?



LET'S SEE--
SINCE WE'RE IN THE
SAME TIME ZONE AS
NEW YORK...

...ACCORDING
TO OUR PLANS, THE
SHOOTING STARTED
NINETEEN HOURS AGO--AT
MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT,
TO BE EXACT. ALL OF OUR
FORCES WERE INSERTED
FROM THE CLOUD
KINGDOMS.



THE WAR'S
ALREADY **WELL**
UNDER WAY.

ANY
MORE QUESTIONS,
SWEETIE?



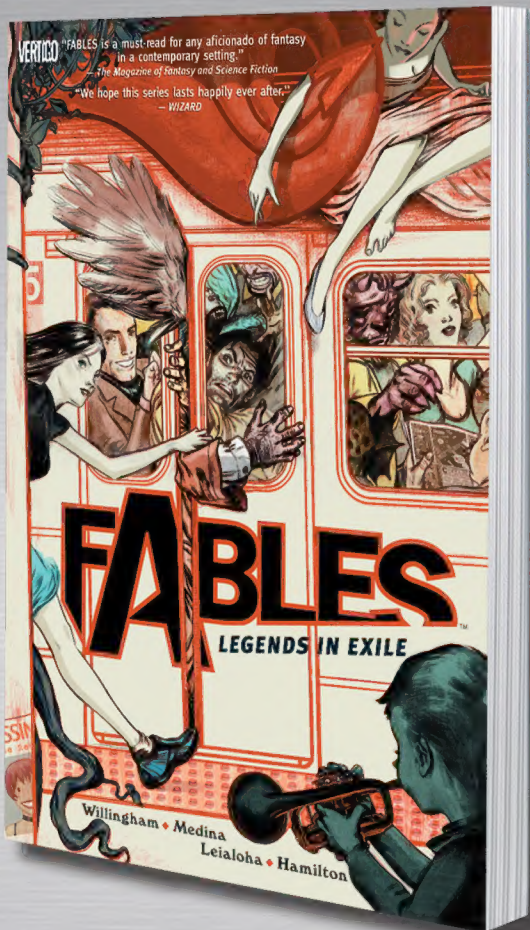
"FABLES is an excellent series in the tradition of SANDMAN, one that rewards careful attention and loyalty." – ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

BILL WILLINGHAM

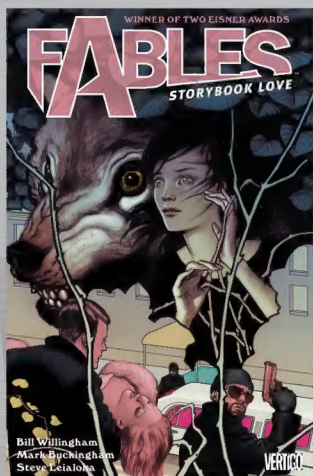
"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."
– THE WASHINGTON POST



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- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



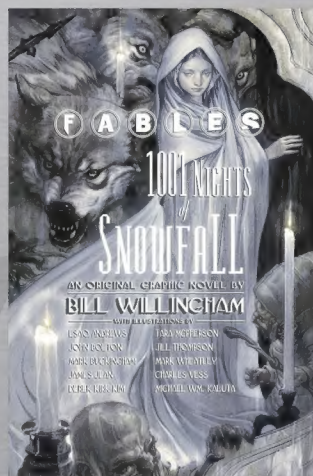
FABLES VOL. 3:
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:
HOMELANDS

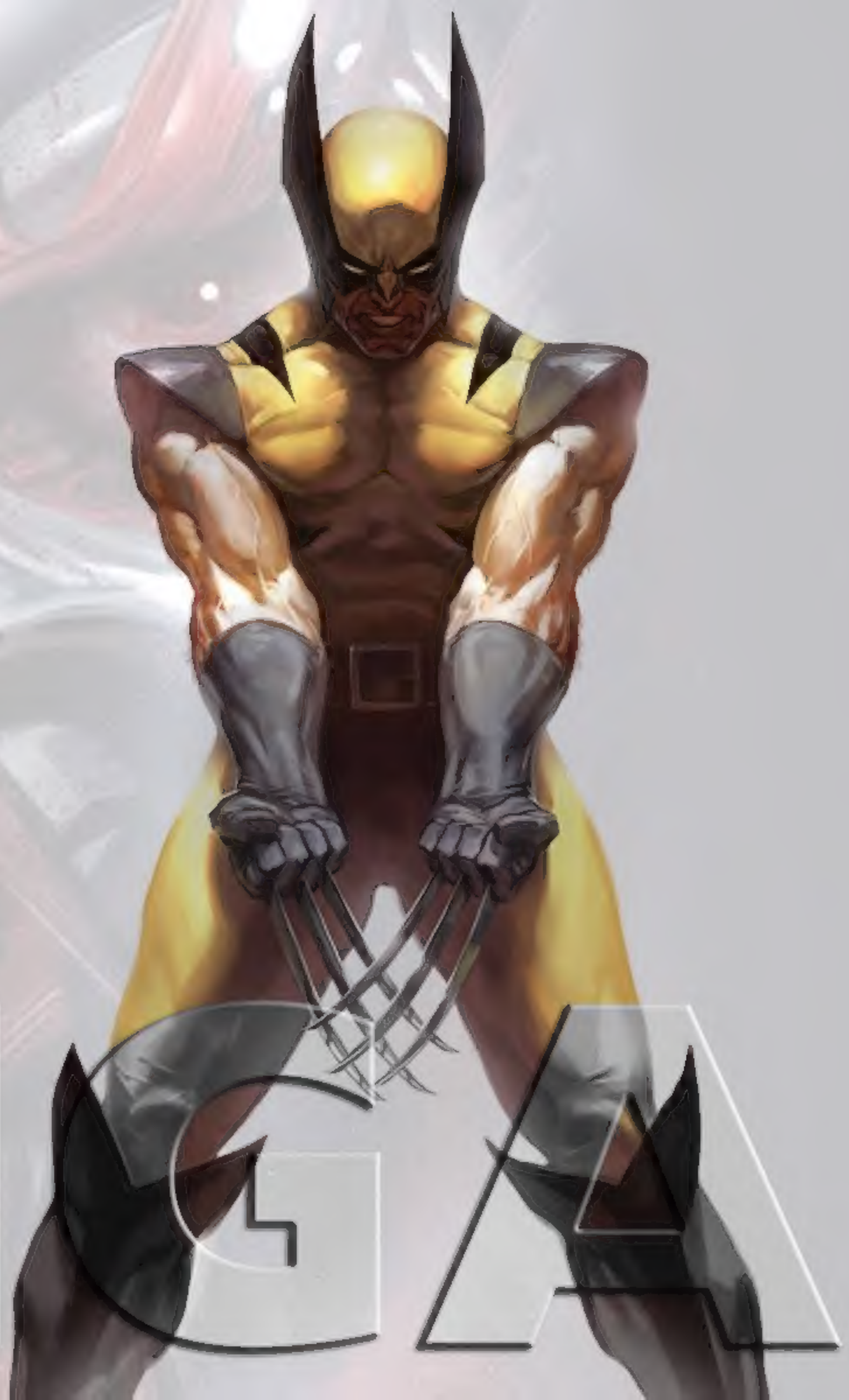


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